

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A recreational vehicle adapted for ground travel having a storage compartment to enclose an auxiliary load, comprising:
a chassis including a frame supported on a plurality of wheels for highway travel;
a drop deck having a first edge and a second edge, said second edge being
pivotally mounted to the chassis, the drop deck configured to be movable from a closed position to an open position wherein said first edge engages a ground surface forming a ramp for loading and unloading the compartment;
a body mounted to the chassis including a plurality of body walls, and a ceiling;
at least one hatch hingedly attached to the body providing an access opening to the compartment, wherein the ceiling, plurality of walls, drop deck and hatch define the storage compartment, said drop deck, in its closed position, forming a floor for supporting the auxiliary load in said compartment.
2. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the plurality of walls is lined with a firewall rated material.
3. (original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the hatch further comprises at least one gas shock with a first gas shock end attached to a hatch edge and a second gas shock end attached to the vehicle body, thereby assisting in raising the hatch and holding the hatch in an open position.

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4. (original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein an edge of the drop deck is hingedly mounted to the chassis.
5. (Currently amended) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the means to raise and lower the drop deck is at least one hydraulic lift cylinder with a first cylinder end attached to the chassis and a second cylinder end attached to the an edge of the drop deck, the hydraulic cylinder having sufficient power to raise and lower the drop deck and the auxiliary load supported on said deck.
6. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the drop deck is raised and lowered by at least four hydraulic lift cylinders configured to lower, raise and store the drop deck in a level plane.
7. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the drop deck is secured in the closed position with at least one post attached to the drop deck, the post comprising a post stop adjacent and corresponding to a releasable latching device attached to the chassis configured to receive the post stop and to support the drop deck and the auxiliary load.
8. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a winch device and cable attached to an interior surface of the vehicle body.
9. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 8, further comprising a wheeled dolly connected to the cable.
10. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the body walls are reinforced to minimize damage to the vehicle and auxiliary load during transport.
11. (original) The vehicle of claim 1, comprising two hatches on adjacent body walls.

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12. (currently amended) The vehicle of claim 1 further including a means to prevent rolling movement of the vehicle on said wheels ~~from driving off~~ when the drop deck is in a lowered position.
13. (currently amended) The vehicle of claim 12, wherein the means to prevent the vehicle from ~~driving off~~ moving when the drop deck is in a lowered position comprises a drop deck position sensor connected to an indicator lamp to alert the vehicle operator of the position of the drop deck.
14. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 12, wherein the means to prevent the vehicle from moving when the drop deck is in a lowered position comprises a "kill" switch, a PRNDL gear selector position sensor, and a drop deck position sensor wherein the vehicle operator is prohibited from lowering the drop deck if the PRNDL gear selector is not in "Park," and if the drop deck is lowered, the operator is prohibited from taking the PRNDL gear selector out of "Park."
15. (original) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the vehicle comprises additional interior spaces.
16. (original) The vehicle of claim 15, wherein the storage compartment is located in the rear of the vehicle, and the hatch is located on a rear wall of the vehicle.
17. (original) The vehicle of claim 15, wherein the storage compartment is located in the front of the vehicle, and the hatch is located on a front wall of the vehicle.
18. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 15, wherein the additional interior space extends over the storage compartment ceiling.

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19. (currently amended) A vehicle having a storage compartment to enclose an auxiliary load, comprising:

a chassis including a frame supported on wheels for highway travel;

a drop deck pivotally mounted to the chassis;

a body mounted to the chassis comprising body walls and a ceiling;

at least one hatch hingedly attached to the body providing access to the compartment when pivoted to an open position; and

wherein the drop deck, ceiling, and said hatch define the storage compartment;

means to raise the drop deck to a closed position wherein it forms a floor supporting said load and to lower the drop deck to an open position wherein it forms a ramp for loading and unloading of the compartment; and

means to secure the drop deck in the closed position.

20. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 15, wherein the body further comprises an access door to provide access between the additional interior space and the storage compartment.